



Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XXXVIII Number II February 2014 Jerry Neuburger, Editor Stockton, California

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Someone stepped up... for this month.

DFF Update

By Steve VonBerg
2014 has started off with a bang! We've already had two excellent outings, one to the Mokelumne and the other to the Yuba River. Our January guest speaker, Jose Setka, gave

President's Message by ?

an excellent presentation about the past, present, and future of the Mokelumne River. Also, the club's annual dinner was well attended and, from all accounts, everyone had a good time. Bruce and Sallye Rollans, Charlie Reames, Steve Cooper, Tony Ott, Jean Laughlin, John Highsmith, as

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In Memoriam: Herman Spalinger

The following obituary was provided by Steve Cooper

Herman A. Spalinger, 77, of Stockton, CA, passed away in his home town on January 27, 2014, from interstitial lung disease. He was born June 20, 1936, to parents Herman C. Spalinger and Myrtle Z. Spalinger.

He married Catherine A. Azevedo on June 26, 1965, in Stockton. Together they raised four children: Lawrence, Elizabeth, Susan and Margaret. Herm's life was spent with family and friends enjoying fishing, skiing, camping, photography, hiking and bike riding. After retirement, he joined the Delta Fly Fishers, his second family, where he enjoyed club outings, meetings, conservation efforts and endless fishing tales. He also loved spending time trap shooting.

He attended Lewis & Clark College in

Portland, OR, and then served in the U.S. Army. Upon discharge, he attended court reporting school in San Francisco. Herman spent his career as a court reporter for 37 years the San Joaquin County, following in his father's footsteps.



Next to fishing, it seemed that Herman was always cooking, outings, trout bout, catfish derby. Herman was always there, making sure everyone was taken care of.

He is predeceased by his mother, father and older sister, Carol.

Relatives and friends are invited to Herman's visitation on February 2 from 11am to 5pm at De Young Memorial Chapel (601 N. California Street). There will be a memorial service at 10 a.m. on February 3rd at DeYoung, immediately followed by interment at San Joaquin Catholic Cemetery in the mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services (PO Box 133, Stockton, CA, 95201), or the Stockton Delta Humane Society & SPCA

(PO Box 30908, Stockton, CA 95213), or a charity of choice.

Calendar

- February 12, 2014 General Membership Meeting
- February 19, 2014 DFF Board Meeting
- February 21-23, 2014 The Fly Fishing Show, Pleasanton
- February 21, 2014 International Fly Fishing Film Festival, Pleasanton
- March 1, 2014 Bob McMillan Trout Bout
- March 5, 2014 New Member - Stillwater Fishing Techniques Seminar
- March 12, 2014, General Membership Meeting
- March 15, 2014 New Member Stillwater Outing, Fuller Lake
- March 19, 2014 DFF Board Meeting
- June 7, 2014 Catfish Derby

February's Program: A Road trip to the Big Sky Country

By Steve VonBerg

February's guest speaker isn't a guide, a vendor, or sales rep---just a very enthusiastic fly fisher. Craig Gittings will be sharing his experiences of visiting and fishing some of Montana's classic rivers. Craig and group of fly fishers from his local club won a trip at their club's annual auction, and from there begins a memorable road trip to the Clark Fork, Bitterroot, Missouri, and Big Horn. Since then, Craig has fished all over the world. And, it all started with a local club trip!

Craig says being an active member of his club has given him an opportunity to have mentors, make new friends, fish with people from all over the world, and to experience fishing for many species of fish, in both salt and fresh water. For Craig, being part of an active club pushed him out of his comfort zone and has provided him with a lifetime of experiences and memories. His enthusiasm for our sport could inspire you to do the same. Craig's wit and dry humor promise to make this an entertaining and informative evening!

The meeting will begin at 7:00pm at John R. Williams School, 2450

Meadow Ave., Stockton CA,

Need to know just a little more? Here's Craig's ramblings on how he got involved in the first place.

'I am just your average club member that ended up just a little more involved. Flyfishing filled the void when my son got out of Scouting. My downfall was joining more than one club-



today I belong to three. My first real outing with a club was with a group headed to West Yellowstone. While on that trip, I was approached, or more appropriately, ambushed and shanghaied into becoming the next program chair. My recollection of the diplomatic response was, "I'll think about it." That was easy, perhaps too easy. Well, at the next club meeting it was announced that there was a new program chair to fill the void. When I reminded the announcer that the response was neutral and no real commitment was offered, his response was less tactful.

"What? Were you too drunk to remember?"

Have you ever been shamed into club position? Since then, I have actually taken up drinking as well as becoming the program chair that evening along with a few other club and board positions over the years. As you can see, it has been downhill ever since. But it has not been all that bad. The club experience provided me with plenty of mentors, new friends, not to

mention opportunities to fish with different people as well as different species both fresh and saltwater species. Overall, the experience has been pleasant when pushed outside my comfort zone. Hey, it's just fishing, right?

February's meeting will cover how your average club members, at an annual installation/fundraising dinner, planned a trip to Montana. By offering the minimum acceptable bid for a lodge trip on the lower Clark Fork seconds before the auctioneer withdrew the trip, we were on a roll. Does this sound opportunistic or someone with below average math skills finally figuring it out? It pays to always run the numbers. Prior to the live auction, the information was sketchy at best.

There was no interest by our group until details of the lodge were spelled out during the auction. This is where the math skills helped with the decision to offer at least the minimum bid. Have you become interested in the details or the least bit suspicious? We haven't even mentioned the fishing. Hope to see you at the February meeting.

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No outing this month. Instead, consider going to The Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton. Even better, post on [Facebook](#) or call some friends and carpool.

NCCFFF Hall of Fame Dinner, February 22, in Fremont

Please join us at the Annual 2014 Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet. The banquet will be held February 22nd at the Fremont Elks Lodge, in Fremont Ca.

There will be a no host bar and a Prime Rib buffet dinner with all the extras.

Exciting raffle items will be available as well as silent and live Auction items.

Please join us in honoring our newest Hall of Fame recipients Don Cheserak, Hugh Miller as well as honoring John Ryzanych and Mark Rockwell.

This is currently the only fundraising event the Northern California Council holds.

Funds received are used for conservation, education and the promotion of fly-

fishing. We need your support to allow us to continue to support these important activities. ,

For more information and to sign up, go to [NCCFFF.org](#). The cost is only \$50 per person.

Yuba River Outing: The fishing was good, the food fantastic

by Steve vonBerg

Overcast skies, rain, and wind---a perfect day for steelhead fishing!! By all accounts, this year's outing to the Yuba River was a great success. Bob and Jean Fujimura did an outstanding job as fishmeisters for this annual outing. Their pre-trip planning, maps, fishing tips, and food made for a memorable event. This has become one of our highlight outings for the year. The only drawback is the event has a fixed number of participants because of UC Davis restrictions.

Bob & Jean's bacon wrapped hot dogs were a big hit and warmed the tummies.

As for the fishing, it was a mixed bag. Reports ranged from no grabs

to five fish landed. Though more fish were caught this year, the size seemed to be a bit smaller than last year. Fish were caught by swinging mohair leeches, long line and tight line indicator fishing using caddis and stonefly nymphs, egg patterns, and large beadhead blood-midges. Though fish were seen hitting the surface, there were no reports of fish being landed on a dry pattern. The best fishing was in the morning upstream of the picnic area. The water was low and clear. The number of riffles and runs were smaller than last year but were easier to wade at 725cfs. The low light conditions allowed wading without spooking the fish. With the higher winds after lunch, most fishermen opted to go home. For those few who

stayed, the fishing was good---but not the catching!! Still a great way to spend a day on a river with fellow Delta Fly Fishers.

Bob and Jean went above and beyond for the lunch. With two BBQs fired up, bacon wrapped frankfurters were the unique faire of the day---real cholesterol bombs!. Baked beans, potato salad, grilled veggies and a big selection of condiments made for very tasty lunch. Being a dedicated fishmeister, Bob didn't fish until later in the afternoon, reporting one LDR.

Speaking for all those in attendance, we give our sincere thanks to Jean and Bob for hosting DFF's outstanding day on the Yuba River. Let's do it again!!



Typical Yuba River rainbow. Photo by Ed Barich

The Yuba in the morning. Photo by Ed Barich



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Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Gil Parker	209 951-7154
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Earl Summers	209-957-6756
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Trout Bout (November)	
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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:
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 Stockton, CA 95207-7862

More Yuba photos...



Just part of Bob and Jean's Fujimura's fantastic lunch effort! Photo by Steve vonBerg

Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A similar ad on our website monthly articles equal to the number of newsletter advertising months. (App. Two per month.)

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the club's Face book page, 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or e-mail Jerry Neuburger, Editor 209-369-5752

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Photos by Steve vonBerg

2014 Proposed Outings Calendar

February 21-23---Pleasanton

Show Leader: Carpooling TBA (not an outing)

March 27-30---Pyramid Lake

Leader: Larry Mettler/Jerry Neuburger

March TBA--pre-outing meeting clinic

Leader: Jerry Neuburger/Gil Parker

March TBA--Stillwater clinic at Fuller

Lake Leader: Jerry Neuburger

April 12---Kelsey Bass Ranch,

Leader: Al Smatsky

May 3---One Fly Contest, Leader: Bob

Fujimura

May 15-19---Davis Lake; Leader: Marty

K

June 1---Shad Sac. R. Orland Outfitters

Leader: Charlie Reames

June 7---Catfish Derby Oak Grove Park

June 11---DFF BBQ

June 21-22---Truckee River, Leader: Dan

McDaniel

July 12---Beardsley Forebay,

Leader: Mike Nicholson

August 16-17---Santa Cruz Kelp Bass ,

Leader: Jerry Neuburger

September 6---Hwy 88 Lakes TBA,

Leader: Gil Parker

September 15-21--- Bridge-

port, Leader: Don Gillette

October 3-4---Heenan/Indian

Creek, Leader:

October 18-19---Lower Sac.

River, Leader: Bruce and Sallye Rollans

November 8---Feather River

Leader: Al Smatsky

November 22---LakeBerryessa,

Leader: Ed Barich

December 6---Delta/Sugar Barge,

Leader: Jerry Neuburger



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well as, numerous others, deserve our thanks for putting in hours of preparation and work to make our club's largest fundraiser a success. I'm sure they would like to hear from you personally.

In February, there will not be a formal outing. Instead, we are encouraging members to make arrangements for carpooling with others to the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show on Feb. 21-23. Our next outings will be in March. Larry Mettler and Jerry Neuburger will be fishmeisters for Pyramid Lake on March 27-30. More details about this outing will follow in the next few weeks. Also, Jerry would like to have a pre-stillwater clinic, followed by an outing to Fuller Lake earlier in the month. However, at this time, no specific dates have been set. Water and weather conditions will determine the dates. March 1 will be the annual

Bob McMillen Trout Bout at Oak Grove Park and volunteers are always appreciated. On April 12, Al Smatsky will be leading his annual outing to Kelsey Bass Ranch. Word has it, a 16# was caught earlier this month!! Ask Al to show the picture. Sign up lists will be available for these outings at the next general meeting on February 12. For more details about future outings and events, visit the club's Facebook page.

Our guest speaker in February will be Craig Gittings. Though Craig has fished all over the world, his first "road trip" to Montana holds a special place for him. His presentation will focus on fishing some of Montana's most famous trout waters. Should be a great evening.

In closing, our club has a very pressing and frustrating problem. We still do not have a president or recording

secretary. At this time, board members will be rotating these positions---but the lack of continuity will make for a very difficult year. We need permanent people to fill these positions. Board members are already stretched thin, and most have already served in these capacities. The "old guard" is getting older and needs new recruits! We need YOU to step up and volunteer for one of these openings. In my 30 plus years in the club, this is the first time I feel we could be facing a very uncertain future. Please let any board member or chairman know if you might be willing to get involved. The board is very dedicated and will be there to assist anyone willing to assume one of these very vital positions. Finally, a big THANKS to Sallye Rollans and Marty Kjelson for their years of service to Delta Fly Fishers.

Steve von Berg

Conservation: The possible loss of the 2014 and 2016 salmon seasons

I think I fish, in part, because its an anti-social, bohemian business, that when gone about properly, puts you forever outside mainstream culture without landing you in an institution.

John Gierach

The possible loss of the 2014 and 2016 salmon seasons -

The federally operated Coleman Fish Hatchery was established on Battle Creek to maintain the salmon population lost in the Sacramento River after Shasta Dam was built. Now, because of the drought and questionable decisions, this years population of salmon released may be devastated. During the last seven weeks of the current salmon fry releases, over 750,000 fish have been released. And during the third week of January another 73,000 young salmon are scheduled to be released under very questionable circumstances.

The Lower Sacramento River is now flowing at its lowest legally allowed volume of 3,250 cps. Many groups, including the Golden Gate Salmon Association (GGSA) feel these fish face almost cer-

tain death due to low, very clear water expediting predation. The GGSA is referring to the release area as the "death zone." The US Fish and Wild Service (USFWS) acknowledges that the probability of survival of the salmon under these conditions is "very poor", but con-



UC Berkeley paleoclimatologist B. Lynn Ingram

tinue the releases. The USFWS are concerned that the salmon will fail to imprint properly if released in other areas. However, John McNanus, Executive Director

of GGSA said, "The Fish and Wildlife Service says they won't move the fish to safe release sites because the fish will fail to imprint and find their way home two years from now. But there aren't likely to be any fish two years from now under current drought conditions."The GGSA and other salmon groups feel the salmon should be released far downstream from the "death zone" in more favorable circumstances. They note that during the drought of 2007-2008, studies have shown that up to 50% of the Coleman fish were lost within the first 50 miles of the hatchery. State hatcheries on the Feather and Mokelumne Rivers have had similar water issues, but released their fish downstream with much higher survival and return rate. Unfortunately, there is no indication the Coleman Hatchery will follow the state hatcheries examples.

This coming April, the Coleman hatchery is scheduled to release the important fall run of juvenile salmon. This is the run that provides fish the for both our sport and commercial fishing. The release will be about 12 million fish. Assuming the drought continues, these fish will encounter the same problems that the late fall

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run face unless Coleman abruptly changes it tactics.

The Delta Fly Fishers are always concerned with the survival of our fisheries. We can't let these fish become extinct. Another important side of this issue is financial. The salmon industry generates \$1.4 billion for California's economy, and about \$750,000 million for Oregon. This includes thousands of jobs from Santa Barbara to northern Oregon. This includes jobs in the salmon industry, sporting goods, commercial equipment, motels, restaurants, marinas, native American interest, and the list goes on and on.

During the last week in January, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, the Golden Gate Salmon Association, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association and the Coastside Fishing Club have ask both state and federal water agencies to hold emergency meetings to save the the Central Valley Chinook runs from the problems initiated by the drought. Bill Jennings of CSPA said, "We have a potentially dire situation in which a large percentage of the 2013 Central Valley salmon may be lost if no action is taken. Salmon have been suffering from a man-made drought for decades and this years lack of rainfall exacerbates the problem. We're calling on the state and federal government to save this years salmon run, which can be done if we act now.

However, at this point, given the problems at the Coleman Hatchery and the drought, the salmon releases of 2013 and return runs in 2016 have the potential of becoming a disaster.

Drought in California's history -

On the internet, in the papers, and on radio and TV, we keep hearing about this drought being the worst in the states' history since records have been kept. However, in a January article by Steve Hackensmith in "News Center" he interviewed the UC Berkeley paleoclimatologist B.

Lynn Ingram who doesn't think we comprehend the potential seriousness of the current drought situation. She feels we need to understand that we are in the driest water year in California the last 500 years. California's records have only been kept from the late 1840's. Her time frame goes back thousands of years. The last time we had a drought of this magnitude was in 1508!

Ingram says our paleo-history tells us, "Droughts can go for years, if not decades, and there were some dry periods that lasted for over a century." The 20th century has been a mild, wetter time in our history. We have based our state's development on the climate conditions that existed in the recent past. Our dams and water infrastructure were built during a wet period in our Earth's history. But at this time we are seeing a decreasing rainfall, a lessening of snow pack with increasing wildfires. According to Ingram, scientists can see evidence of major floods in California for the last 2,000



Upper Lake Orville or what's left of it.

years which have occurred every 100 to 200 years. The last mega-flood in California, started December 24th, 1861. It rained for 45 days straight and created a lake from Redding to Fresno that was 300 miles long, 40 miles wide, and 10ft deep. Sacramento was under water. You could have taken a boat from Redding to Fresno without touching land. However, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation now appears to be shifting into warmer, drier mode. Historically, these shifts have lasted from 20 to 30 years.

You can't tell the players without a program -

The longer one is involved in water issues, the more one is aware of duplicity. A classic example of this duplicity is by the names groups chose to represent themselves. Take, for example, a name we are all familiar with, the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta. It sounds like a typical Delta environmental organization. It is, of course, exactly the opposite. Funded by billionaire mega-farmer Stewart Resneck, its sole purpose is to facilitate the extinction of striped bass in the Delta

In California, we now have a new term to describe this technique. The term is "astroturfing." The purpose of astroturfing is to make an organization appear to be one thing when their purpose is exactly the opposite. A astroturf group we need to become aware of is the Latino Water Coalition. Ostensibly, they try to present themselves as an water-environmental group. They are not! I became involved with them four years ago when working on the Human Right to Water Bill in Sacramento. There are

150,000 to 175,000 Latinos working for Westlands Water District and Kern County Land Company, that live in the Central Valley. They are impoverished and live where the water is polluted, toxic and causes many health issues. Despite the fact they work for the Westlands and the Kern County groups, they must travel miles to buy bottled water for drinking, bathing, cooking, and washing their clothes. They can't afford this additional expense. Unfortunately, Westlands was successful in having the first Human Right to Water Bill vetoed by the former Gov. Schwarzenegger and the present bill, signed by Gov.

Brown, has no teeth for enforcement. These farm workers are being exploited by their wealthy employers.

Periodically you will see these people in Sacramento carrying signs which say "Farm Water=Jobs". They have been bussed to Sacramento by South Valley agribusiness to carry signs for Westland's et. al.. Unfortunately, these farm workers have no idea they are being manipulated by corporate agribusiness interests. The Latino Water Coalition was formed by ag lobbyist George Soares who's firm represents major clients including Cali-

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fornia Cotton Growers, the Friant Water Authority, and the California Rice Commission to list just three of its over 30 wealthy agribusiness interests. Delores Huerta, and others in the farm labor group, refers to the Latino Water Coalition as a front group. After listening to one of their meetings, I was offended by

the presentation of the plan that would environmentally kill the Delta, destroy the Delta's fisheries, and result in the loss of farming in the Delta. I was told bluntly that they didn't care. They were only interested in the agricultural jobs made available in the lower San Joaquin Valley. The Latino Water Coalition wants to be thought of as a pro-environmental wa-

ter group. They are not. They are a well-organized shill group and work for the Westlands Water District and South San Joaquin Valley agribusiness.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

Annual Installation Dinner presents a dilemma as well as award winners

This year's annual installation dinner was attended by over ninety members. It was another success as far as food and fun was concerned, with the volunteer crew headed by Tony Ott producing another great meal.

Outgoing president Marty Kjelson was master of ceremonies, thanked the outgoing officers and board and welcomed in the new officers and board, which, in most cases, was actually a continuation of the previous year's crew.

However, for the first time in DFF's history, no one has stepped up to act as the club's president. While some temporary steps are being taken by the board, the lack of a president will make this year's operation of the club a little more difficult than usual and certainly lack some continuity between meetings.

In addition to Marty's stepping down, Sallye Rollans stepped down from her position as the club's recording secretary. Sallye served in that position for a number of years. With her leaving, the position is unfilled. Again, some temporary measures are being taken to record minutes at the club's board meetings but the result will most likely be somewhat disjointed when compared to Sallye's excellent work.

The award ceremony resulted in the following:

The club's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to member Al Smatsky for his many, many years as a club officer, director, committee chair, outings leader,

seminar presenter, and a person who has expanded both his and others fly fishing opportunities. This was only the second time the award has been presented, the first being last year when it was presented to Bill Kiene for his support as a shop owner for all of the clubs in the Sacramento area for decades.

The Fly Fisher of the Year was presented to Ron Forbes for his unwavering work in fisheries conservation. In addition to writing the monthly column for the club's newsletter, Ron is a member of Restore

novative ideas to maintain and increase club membership in an ever increasingly busy world.

The Incomplete Angler Award was presented to club member Gil Parker. Gil went surf fishing with president Marty and since he didn't have a proper rod, borrowed one of Marty's. Gil apparently felt the rod the rod was a little on the soft side for casting into the wind and surf and decided to shorten it using an overhead fan. While the rod was shorter, it turned out that it didn't cast that well

without a tip top guide so Gil gave it back to Marty with an explanation and apology.

Vice president John Highsmith was in charge of the year's big raffle and did an excellent job. The grand prize, a well tested pontoon boat purchased by the club from Bill Laughlin's estate was won by head chef, Tony Ott.

The dinner never could have happened without the many hours of prepa-

ration and work put in by Bruce and Sallye Rollans, Steve Cooper, Tony Ott, Charlie Reams, Jean Laughlin, John Highsmith and the many others that gave their time and talents.



Al Smatsky receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award from Bruce Rollans

the Delta and Represents them at the state sponsored MokeWISE meetings where the future of the Mokelumne River is being decided, represents the club at the Northern California Conference of the Federation of Fly Fishers, was one of the principals in the Calaveras River Steelhead Festival and attends numerous fisheries related meetings.

The President's Club Service Award was presented to Bob Fujimura, our membership chair, for his continued efforts in maintaining membership records, leading a number of outings, and developing in-



Tony at the grill.



Bruce and Sallye Rollans



A junior fly fisher, mom and dad.



Al, "Lifetime Achievement? Can't be me. I'm not that old!"



Bob Fujimura receiving the President's Service Award



Tony Ott with the evening's grand prize.

A classified ad from ex president, Ron Pettit: 3/4 ton diesel truck and 30 foot fifth wheel trailer

Since moving to the desert and a health problem, I have decided to sell my 2001 - 30 ft. Montana 5th wheel trailer (once owned by John Rehn) and my 1996 Dodge Ram 2500 Turbo Diesel truck. Both are in excellent condition and fully equipped. If possible, could you insert a notice in the Newsletter that anyone interested can call me (760-423-6072) or send me an E-mail (Floatubefisher@aol.com) and I'll return a complete description of both.

I have lowered the prices significantly from suggested retail. Trailer \$8,500 - Truck \$5,993. I have to sell the trailer before the truck, however. I would really appreciate it. Thank you. Call if you have questions. I miss fishing and certainly miss the club members and activities.

Fly Fishing Helpful Hints

The Davy Wooton Knot

Several weeks ago I was listening Ask About Fly Fishing on internet radio hosted by D. Roger Maves (<http://askaboutflyfishing.com>). His guest was Davey Wooton, talking about midge fishing techniques. Wooton is a guide, fly tier, international fly fishing competitor for the Welsh National Team, and a coach of the World Youth Fly Fishing Championships. To give himself and teammates an edge in competition, he developed a knot that was

simple and fast to tie, has a low profile (eg as for flies # 20 or smaller), has high knot strength (close to 100%), and according to Wooton and others has never failed.



After downloading the instructions from the net, I practiced tying the knot with a # 12 hook and a 5x line. Within less than five minutes of practice you can tie this knot in less than 5 sec-

onds. It appears to a strong and definitely has a low profile. Impressive.

I could have used this technique on the Lower Yuba River when I was knee deep in water, slipping around on the slick gravel bottom, in the rain, with the wind gusting to 15 mph as I fumbled around trying to tie the improved cinch knot

Give it a try and let me know what you think

Ron Forbes.

Rx Flyfishing!

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